

REMARKS

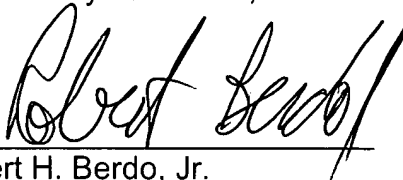
The Examiner's Action mailed on August 23, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2, canceled claim 2, and amended claim 3 to depend from independent claim 1. Claim 1 is the independent claim, and claims 1 and 3 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 as being allowable over the art of record. In response thereto, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2, thus rendering the Examiner's prior art rejections moot. Therefore this Application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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November 4, 2004
Date

RHB:vm